



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

New Community Program Helps Rhode Island Flood Victims

Cranston, RI, December 13, 2010 – RI HOPE (Helping Other People in Emergencies) is a new community program established to help Rhode Island residents who have unmet needs related to the flood last Spring. The program is a federal response to the presidential declaration of a disaster in Rhode Island. Program outreach workers currently are visiting affected neighborhoods and businesses across the state and speaking with individuals impacted by the disaster. In addition, they are reaching out to people at various locations including senior centers, schools, community events and local shopping areas.

“There are many people in Rhode Island who continue to face challenges related to the flood”, says Susan Earley, Director of RI HOPE. Craig Stenning, Director of the Department of Behavioral Health, Development Disabilities, and Hospitals added: “Our mission is to help individuals and communities recover from the effects of the flooding disaster through community-based outreach, information, guidance and services.”

RI HOPE provides disaster-related educational presentations, materials, emotional support and links residents to community resources and services. All RI HOPE services are free. Any individual, family, business or group is eligible for assistance. The program runs through April of 2011. For more information, call the RI HOPE information and referral line, toll-free, Monday through Friday, at 1-877-854-6202.

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About RI HOPE

RI HOPE is funded by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and administered by the RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. The program is designed to empower those affected by the flooding of 2010 by educating them about common disaster reactions, teaching them coping skills, assessing them for individual needs, and linking them to appropriate community resources. For more information about RI HOPE, call 1-877-854-6202.